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Sent: Monday, April 28, 2008 8:50 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: MLPA North Coast Region

May 26th 2008

PROJECT EIGHT

All The Kings Horses And All The Kings Men showed up for the Marine Life Protection Act Meeting for the North Coast region last week.

Our valued fishermen and their kin rallied in support of one of the three recommended proposals 2XA.

Sport and commercial fishermen united together in a display of unity never seen before on the north coast.

In a last ditch effort to save the crippled industry and sport from economic collapse.

If 2XA is adopted it will give the severely depleted fish a chance to replenish the proposed protected

Reefs .With the HOPE that increased overflow fish population will allow fish to be taken by sport and

commercial fishing.

If 2XA is NOT adopted the other plans will force the fishing community to travel greater distances

causing higher fuel costs and lesser yields. Not only that but according to testimony of experienced skippers

The small boat sport guys will venture into areas far from port putting them into treacherous North Coast

Seas with ever changing conditions ie. wind, increasing swell, fog and shipping lanes etc. In my opinion

We have a very precarious safety situation, the professionals know this. People will perish and costly recovery

efforts will burden already taxed rescue recourses.

I say **Stop** the insanity. This is our chance to be an example to the World and create a renewed fishery

that can be sustained.

Here's what we do:

- ***Accept the FACTS*** that our Fishery has become depleted to a point of no return if WE continue to take commercially at this time.
- Make the entire North Coast Region that is Not already protected a Sport fishing venue only in depths of 50 meters and less.
- Create no take zones at all Esteros and River mouths providing Permanent Protection Areas.
- Make no go zones for all boats motored or not within 600 ft. of off shore nesting areas such as bird rock at Devils Slide & Stormy Stack @ Pt. Reyes.
- Allow commercial Crab on a Sustainable yield level.
- Allow Commercial Salmon fishing in depths of 50 meters and more as long as we can maintain Sustainable yield.
- Allow Commercial Urchin take @ a level designed to protect Kelp Forests and its dependent fish populations.
- Establish a Fisherman Recovery act to assist in the transition it would include:
 1. Special surtax on all commercially sold fish including restaurants to fund the act regardless of the source fishery, also use a portion sport fishing license fees created just for salt water take.

2. Provide a Special Task force to provide emergency economic relief for commercial fishermen and others that are connected to the industry that can prove hardship on an individual basis.
 3. Give permit ownership to the Skippers and their Families that are still in the Industry, and families that have already bailed in the last five years. Make permits transferable, so that these families can benefit from their heritage either by re-entering the industry or reselling their permit when the fishery is re-established.
 4. Limit the number of commercial boats allowed to fish the North Coast Region [NCR] once sustainable yields can be maintained.
 5. Re-define party boats as commercial vessels.
 6. Establish Five year moratorium on all commercial fish take in depths of 50 meters and less.
 7. Monitor the NCR with our University System the Bodega Bay Marine Lab and or the Skripps Institute in San Deigo. Establish a determining council of scientists along with the U.S. Dept. of Fish and Game also include commercial fishermen in the council. Have power to extend the moratorium 1-5 years at a time. My opinion is to probably give it 10 years.
- In conclusion: That after **38 years of continuous non-consumptive use as a surfer** I feel this is the only viable solution. I feel that the general public while viewing what is perceived as one of the most beautiful coast lines in the world have no Idea of the devastation that exist below the surface. I meet people from all over the world on a regular basis that are blown away by this area. Tourism is on the rise lets protect our assets and do something good for the World for a change.
 - I challenge our leaders to make the difficult decisions that will truly make a difference to future generations. Otherwise get ready for that Jellyfish sandwich because that is all that will be left.
 - The waves will still be here for us but you will not see the tears in my eyes because I'll be wet.
 - **TAKE ACTION NOW**
 - Thanks to the Scientific community, The Blue Ribbon Task Force ,2XA Supporters,1-3,and #4 supporters for their input @ the San Rafael meeting. I choose not to speak, but to come up with this plan for your consideration.
 - The **Surfrider Foundation** is a non-profit environmental org. dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the **WORLD'S** oceans ,waves and beaches **for All people** through conservation, research and education.
 - **Surfrider Foundation supports 1-3 proposal.**
 - **This is my personal proposal.**

ALOHA

Steve Walters

Chairperson Sonoma Coast Chapter The Surfrider Foundation
